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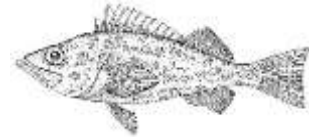
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
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Sitka Area Office  
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#### **2018 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska directed black rockfish fishery. The directed black rockfish season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2018, unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

#### **Legal Gear**

Black rockfish may be taken in the directed fishery only by dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines. No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel and no more than 30 hooks per line may be operated from a jig machine. A mechanical jigging machine may not be deployed while the vessel is making way under mechanized propulsion [5 AAC 28.130 (h)(2)]. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for the directed black rockfish fishery is the Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish permit (M card) and it is issued specific to a particular gear type. **Longline gear is not a legal gear type for the directed black rockfish fishery.**

#### **Registration**

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed black rockfish fishery [5 AAC 28.106(e)]. Registration forms are available at local ADF&G offices.

#### **Logbooks**

The operator of a vessel fishing for black rockfish is required to maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations [5 AAC 28.175]. A copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing. Logbooks must detail the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes, and nearest headland, the number of lines and total number of hooks used, the average depth fished, the hours fished for each line, and the number of target and bycatch fish taken, by species for each unique geographic location fished. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices.

#### **Federal Requirements**

Vessels fishing for groundfish in federal waters (EEZ) of the Gulf of Alaska are subject to federal regulations and requirements. Vessels participating in the directed black rockfish fishery in the EEZ are required to retain and report all demersal shelf rockfish (DSR); therefore, they must possess a Federal Fisheries Permit. For additional information contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7202.

### Guideline harvest limits

The guideline harvest limits (GHL) for the directed black rockfish fishery [5 AAC 28.160(c)(3)] are as follows:

Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS)- not to exceed 25,000 round pounds

East Yakutat (EYKT) Section- not to exceed 25,000 round pounds

Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section- not to exceed 50,000 round pounds

Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section- not to exceed 100,000 round pounds

Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector - not to exceed 125,000 round pounds.

There is no black rockfish fishery GHL established for the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict or Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector.

### Closed Waters (Figure 1)

Black rockfish may not be taken in a directed fishery in the following waters [5 AAC 28.150(e)]:

(1) In NSEO between 57°37.00' N. lat. and 57°40.00' N. lat.

(2) In CSEO

(A) between 57°10.00' N. lat. and 57°03.00' N. lat.;

(B) the waters of Sitka Sound that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50' N. lat., 135°45.17' W. long., to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05' N. lat., 135°43.00' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58' N. lat., 135°41.30' W. long., to Baranof Island at 57°22.28' N. lat., 135°40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38' N. lat., 135°49.57' W. long., to Hanus Point at 56°51.92' N. lat., 135°30.50' W. long., to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.75' W. long., to Baranof Island at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.60' W. long.;

(C) between 56°22.50' N. lat. and 56°18.70' N. lat.;

(D) Groundfish may not be taken in the waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.50' N. lat., 56°57.00' N. lat., 135°54.00' W. long., and 135°57.00' W. long.;

(3) In SSEOC between 54°56.70' N. lat. and 54°44.40' N. lat.

### Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Black Rockfish Fishery

A permit holder directed fishing for black rockfish in waters of Alaska (0-3 nm) in the Southeast District may retain and sell the following bycatch percentage, based on the round weight of black rockfish on board. State bycatch allowances that apply in adjacent federal waters (3-200 nm) are noted.

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) <sup>1</sup>	10%, <b>full retention required</b> in state and federal waters of EYKT, NSEO, CSEO and SSEOC and in state waters (0-3 nm) of IBS.
Blue and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate in state and federal waters.
Dusky and Yellowtail Rockfish <sup>1</sup>	20% in aggregate in state waters only.
Other Rockfish and Thornyheads <sup>1</sup>	15% in aggregate in state waters only.
Lingcod <sup>2</sup>	20%, CSEO and SSEOC in state and federal waters. 0%, IBS, EYKT and NSEO.
Pacific cod	20%.
Spiny Dogfish	20%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.

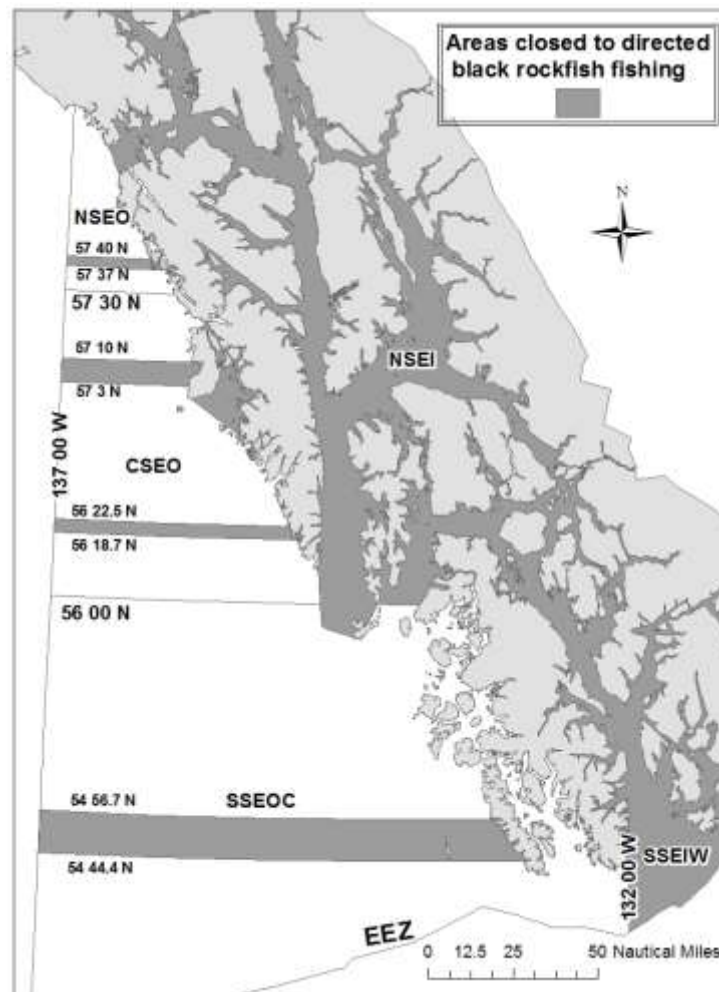
<sup>1</sup>In federal waters of the Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) there is no full-retention requirement for DSR and DSR are included as part of the 5% federal aggregated rockfish bycatch allowance. In other federal waters, the bycatch allowance permitted for rockfish (excluding DSR, blue and dark rockfish) is 5% in aggregate.

<sup>2</sup>May 16-November 30 or until area lingcod allocations are taken; minimum size limit- 27" tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" front of dorsal fin to tip of tail; mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear only.

For information on groundfish bycatch in federal waters, contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7228.

Full retention of DSR bycatch is required for CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish in all waters of the Southeast District. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish. All DSR in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. DSR bycatch overage from state waters, in excess of legal limits, may be retained for personal use or sold; however, all proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch must be forfeited to the State of Alaska. Excess DSR bycatch taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but may not enter commerce.

Black rockfish catches will be closely monitored and fishermen are advised that area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report, and National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at (907) 747-4882.



**Figure 1.** This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of management area boundaries and closure areas, refer to 5AAC 28.105 and 5AAC 28.150 (c) and (e) (1-3).

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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